

Provincial Elections 2019

Become part of the process ...

The 2019 Provincial Elections should be **especially** important to **ANYONE** concerned about Public Education. Voting for the candidate whose view **YOU** support in the Provincial Election on April 16th is how **YOU** create change!

Get informed by reading this year's electoral candidates' perspectives on the current issues concerning Public Education. The following pages contain the words of the candidates **YOU** will be asked to vote for on April 16th. Get out and vote for the candidate that best reflects **YOUR** views on how our Provincial Government should operate.

Edmonton Public Teachers Local 37 of the Alberta Teachers' Association does not endorse candidates.

Election day is Tuesday April 16, 2019

The Advance Poll Days are Tuesday, April 9, Wednesday, April 10, Thursday, April 11, Friday, April 12, Saturday, April 13. 2019 boundary maps can be found [here](#).

Voter Information Centre Hours:

8:15 am to 8:00 pm weekdays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm weekends, and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm voting days.

Please call us toll free at [1.877.422.8683](tel:1.877.422.8683).

Eligibility - To be eligible to vote, you must be:

1. a Canadian citizen
2. at least 18 years of age on Election Day
3. ordinarily resident in Alberta

WHERE DO I VOTE

Your vote is your voice. Make sure your candidate hears it.

1. What does your party see as the main issues facing public education in Alberta today? Of these which is your party's priority? How will the party address that priority?

Rachel Notley - Alberta NDP

<https://rachelnotley.ca>

Rachel Notley and the NDP are fighting for high-quality public education for our kids, but we know that that requires continuous investment.

Unlike Jason Kenney, Rachel Notley and the NDP are committed to funding enrollment growth. We know that this is critical to ensure that the 15,000 new students entering our schools across the province have a teacher to meet them. Over the last four years, our commitment to fund enrollment growth has allowed us to add 4,000 teachers and support staff to our classrooms.

Despite these investments, we know that teachers across the province are still struggling with increasingly diverse classrooms. We were proud to introduce the Classroom Improve Fund to provide additional supports to teachers in the classroom to help with some of this complexity. If re-elected, we will make this fund permanent and increase it to \$100 million in order to be able to provide even more resources for our classrooms.

Finally, Rachel Notley and the NDP believe that our students need an education that prepares them for the 21st century economy. That requires updating our dated 30-yearold curriculum. We have already engaged 100,000 parents, teachers and experts on the curriculum and will continue to engage with our education partners as we move forward. We will also make sure that in addition to having a modern curriculum, our kids have modern schools by building and upgrading 70 new schools in the next four years, focusing on badly needed high schools.

Chris Alders, Green Party candidate for Edmonton City Centre

Website: <https://chrisalders.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chris-Alders-364910674067929/>

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I believe the single greatest issue facing public education in Alberta is childhood poverty. Eliminating poverty by providing a universal basic income will ensure that students can focus on their education without having to worry about food security and homelessness.

2. Does your party believe that education in Alberta is adequately funded? Without diverting current funding and resources already in place, if elected will your party be funding the projected growth of approximately 3000 students expected to enroll in Edmonton Public Schools for the next 3 years, starting September 2019?

Rachel Notley - Alberta NDP

<https://rachelnotley.ca>

Rachel Notley and the NDP know that investing in our students is one of the most important investments we can make in our province's future. Over the last four years, the NDP government has invested in our classrooms, hiring an additional 4,000 teachers and support staff by funding enrollment. We also piloted a Classroom Improvement Fund to hire new teachers and put more resources into Alberta's classrooms.

Unlike Jason Kenney, if re-elected we will continue to fund enrollment growth, making sure that when new students show up in our classrooms there are also new teachers to greet them. We are also committed to enhancing and making the Classroom Improvement Fund permanent. This will mean there are teachers in our classroom to meet our growing student population.

Abdi Bakal, Liberal Candidate - Edmonton MillWoods.

Smaller Class Sizes

Alberta Liberals will put an end to overcrowded classrooms by implementing flexible classroom size caps and 2,000+ hiring more teachers.

Reducing classroom sizes increases the academic performance of students.

The Alberta Liberal Plan will:

- Introduce flexible class-size caps that make it mandatory for the Government and school boards to keep class sizes small.
- Hire as many teachers as needed to meet the class-size requirements.
- Phase in the caps over time, focusing on grades K-3 first, where class size is most strongly tied to performance.
- Work with school boards and educators to make sure class-size caps make sense locally.
- Ensure money allocated for reducing class sizes goes towards that goal.

We will continue to fund enrollment growth, the curriculum review and infrastructure needs.

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The government of Alberta spends approximately \$11,000 per student which is below the national average of approximately \$13,000 per student. If elected, our party will fight to ensure that spending on students is at least on par with the national average.

3. What will your party do to support the success of, and increase graduation rates for our FNMI students from K-12? Please indicate goals and objectives, and also action steps.

Rachel Notley - Alberta NDP

<https://rachelnotley.ca>

Rachel Notley and the NDP are fighting to improve education outcomes for Indigenous students. Over the last four years, the NDP government has worked with Indigenous communities to build bridges, move reconciliation forward, and make life better for Indigenous Albertans.

The NDP government has been working collaboratively with First Nations and the Government of Canada to strengthen First Nations education in Alberta and improve outcomes for students. We signed the Maskwacîs Cree-Government of Alberta Framework Agreement and a Framework Agreement for the establishment of the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTC) Education Authority. We are providing grants to First Nations to help them provide second-level supports so that First Nations students can receive supports and services similar to children who reside off reserve. We've provided \$20 million to strengthen collaboration and to benefit 16,000 students. Finally, we've also provided \$6 million to increase Indigenous language-teacher capacity and expand resource for development for early childhood education to Grade 12.

More broadly, we believe that by moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation, we can move our province forward. Over the past four years, the NDP also made sure that the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is considered in all policy deliberations. We have also taken steps to enact the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, including in our education system.

If re-elected, we will continue to build a relationship of trust, respect and mutual benefit with Indigenous Albertans. We will continue to push the federal government for more equitable education funding on reserves and we will work with Indigenous communities to help improve outcomes for our FNMI students. Rachel Notley and the NDP are committed to doing the hard work of acknowledging past wrongs and building a positive future with First Nations and Métis people in the province.

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Again, a universal basic income will eliminate many obstacles to graduation. A sense of community is also important as is the need to value Indigenous cultures in our schools. I also support after school programs that promote teamwork and comradery with FNMI students.

4. What is your party's position on public dollars funding private schools in Alberta?

Rachel Notley - Alberta NDP

<https://rachelnotley.ca>

Rachel Notley and the NDP are fighting for high-quality public education for our children. When we formed government four years ago, after threats to funding by the previous government, we brought stability to the system, funding the new students that entered our classrooms and providing stable funding since then. Going forward, we will continue to provide stability and invest in our classrooms.

Abdi Bakal, Liberal Candidate - Edmonton MillWoods.

Supporting Choice for Parents

Charter schools are part of the public system and provide valuable, specialized programs.

Alberta Liberal government will eliminate school and bussing fees for Charter school students, and ensure Charter school infrastructure is funded in an equal and fair way.

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Currently, approximately 3% of the provincial education budget goes to funding private schools. I believe that public funding of private schools below 5% is acceptable.

5. How does your party plan to support inclusion in classrooms?

Rachel Notley - Alberta NDP

<https://rachelnotley.ca>

Rachel Notley and the NDP value the work that our teachers do every day to prepare our kids for the future. Rachel Notley and the NDP know that investing in education is one of the most important investments a government can make. That is why the NDP government funded enrollment growth, hiring 4,000 new teachers and support staff. The NDP government also introduced the Classroom Improvement Fund. This fund provided additional teachers and resources for our classrooms to help address increasing complexity.

If re-elected, Rachel Notley and the NDP will not only make the Classroom Improvement Fund permanent, but we will also increase the fund to \$100 million. An NDP government will also continue to fund enrollment growth as 15,000 new students enter our classrooms each year. This funding will provide more resources directly in classrooms to help teachers manage the growing complexity.

In the last four years, Rachel Notley and the NDP introduced a new school nutrition program that serves 30,000 students across the province a healthy meal. This program means that these students can focus on their classes instead of their hunger.

We are proud of the investments we've made in our classrooms over the last four years. We know that there is more work to do and that is why, unlike Jason Kenney who proposes to freeze education spending, we will continue to invest in our teachers and our students.

Abdi Bakal, Liberal Candidate - Edmonton MillWoods.

True Inclusive Education

We will invest in more supports for students with extra needs by increasing funding by 50%. We understand the need for more teaching assistants, more training and more professionals with specialized qualifications to support teachers.

We will ensure funding for special needs students follow the student it is intended for, including for those students who are home-schooled due to difficulties they've encountered in the public school system.

We will also immediately ban the use of seclusion rooms and mandate closer monitoring of all funding directed towards inclusive education.

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We plan to support inclusion in the classroom by implementing a universal design for learning, placing an emphasis on teaching life skills, and developing a strong behavior management plan.

6. Does your party support the right of students to keep their sexual orientation or gender identity as private information that can be shared by teachers only with express consent of the student?

Rachel Notley - Alberta NDP

<https://rachelnotley.ca>

We believe that every student at every school has the right to form or to join a Gay Straight Alliance or Queer Straight Alliance, without fear of being outed. Students also deserve a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and nurtures belonging. That is not possible if students are worried about being outed before they are ready.

Rachel Notley and the NDP were proud to introduce An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances that strengthened legislation that supports students who wish to create or join gay-straight and queer-straight alliances. This legislation strengthened the Minister's ability to ensure every school complies with the law and it protects the privacy of students who join a GSA or QSA. These protections are under threat by a Jason Kenney government.

We believe that building a more inclusive and diverse Alberta is key to bright future and we will keep up that fight.

Abdi Bakal, Liberal Candidate - Edmonton MillWoods.

Parents of the children in schools have the right to know what their child is going through in while they are in school property.

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Yes. We would keep this important provision and fully support Gay-Straight Alliances in our schools.